

hearing last week on the Humanitarian Crisis in Afghanistan, Afghanistan is a country that has been in crisis for years. Indeed, there was concern even as far back as 1997, when I sponsored a resolution that passed the Senate, but was not acted upon in the House, that condemned the Taliban for its treatment of women and children and urged the President to be vigilant in monitoring this situation.

When a country faces such hardships as severe drought, military action, and oppressive leadership, women and children are always the first to suffer. Save the Children, the international relief organization headquartered in my home State of Connecticut, has been working to improve conditions in Afghanistan for years, and has identified several important ways in which we can help Afghanistan rebuild. I have said before that we need to increase mutual understanding between the Afghan and American people, and a recent Save the Children op-ed seems to agree. Nilgun Ogun, the deputy director of Save the Children Programs in Afghanistan and Pakistan, writes that the education of young girls is key to reducing anti-American sentiment in the region, and I tend to agree. As we struggle to determine the best way to help the Afghan people rebuild, we should be mindful of the important contributions of organizations such as Save the Children, and we should listen to their experienced voices. I urge my colleagues to read the following article, and to begin to think about the important task of rebuilding civil society in war-ravaged Afghanistan. I ask unanimous consent that the Op-ed from Save the Children be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Hartford Courant, Oct. 14, 2001]

TO SAVE AFGHANISTAN, EDUCATE THE GIRLS
(By Nilgun Ogun)

I have recently returned from a four-year post as deputy director in Pakistan and Afghanistan for Save the Children, which has been working in the area for almost 20 years. Where some people see devastation and despair, I see hope. I see it in the children who, if given education and health care, may restore economic and social stability to the Afghan people.

It will not be easy. Afghanistan is one of the world's poorest countries, ranking 169th out of 175 countries on a list of socioeconomic indicators reported by the United Nations.

Here are some grim facts: One out of every four children doesn't live past the age 5; more than 40 percent of children die of preventable causes; school enrollment is desperately low; and in addition to being at war for the past two decades, the country is suffering through one of the worst droughts in memory.

The Bush administration is to be commended for allocating emergency funding and humanitarian assistance to the beleaguered citizens of Afghanistan, who are in need of immediate and substantial food aid and medical supplies. However, the real hope for the Afghan people lies with investment in long-term development to help them rebuild their society.

Nowhere is this investment more critical than in education and, in particular, the education of young Afghan girls and women.

Why is educating girls so important? It produces the most consistent and dramatic results. An educated girl is more likely to postpone marriage and childbirth, which in turn leads to improved child survival and well-being. She will provide better health care and nutrition for herself and her family. And she will encourage education for her children. Educated women are also better prepared to help financially support their families.

In 1995, when Save the Children first began its education program at the refugee camps in Balochistan near the Afghan border, the population was approximately 120,000, mostly women and children. Only 5,000 children were enrolled in any kind of schooling and, of these, barely 600 were girls.

Nevertheless, in cooperation with U.N. agencies and other non-governmental organizations, we managed to train a staff of teachers and establish several primary schools. Enrollment is up now by 400 percent, and includes nearly 8,000 girls.

To reach older girls who had not yet received any education and who, by tradition, are not permitted to travel any distance alone, Save the Children initiated home-based schools. There, in the homes of the children's parents or teachers—which are nothing more than mud huts—we teach older girls how to read and do math and how to improve health and nutrition practices.

These children, who barely have a roof over their heads and still wonder daily where their next meal will come from, now have hope for the future. They want to be doctors, teachers and engineers. They have role models of caring community leaders. They have the incentive and the ability to take care of their health needs, which will ensure that their children have a better chance for survival and healthy, productive lives.

Although these days are filled with anxiety, it is important to remain focused on the future and how we can work to make it more peaceful and secure. Now, more than ever, is the time for the government and private citizens to increase their investment in long-term development, including education programs, to help rebuild a stable society in Afghanistan, as well as throughout the developing world.

TRIBUTE TO MASTER SERGEANT EVANDER ANDREWS

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to a wonderful man, Master Sergeant Evander Andrews, whose life was cut short on October 10, 2001, while in the service of his country. He was on deployment and became the first casualty of Operation Enduring Freedom, paying the ultimate sacrifice in our Nation's war on international terrorism. He was an active duty Air Force member with the 366th Civil Engineering Squadron from Mountain Home Air Force Base. Master Sergeant Andrews loved the Air Force, working on heavy equipment, and riding in the cab of an 18-wheeler. But, his family and faith were his true compass and the most important things in his life. He will forever be remembered in the hearts and minds of a loving family, the Mountain Home Air Force Base community, the 366th Civil Engineering Squadron, and many loyal friends.

Evander, or Andy, as he was affectionately known, was a devoted husband and good father, born to Odber and Mary Andrews. He grew up in Solonn, ME, which was little more than a country store, tack shop, old hotel, gas station and cemetery, but a great place to grow up. Andy's three sisters, Carol, Tara and Dulci, remember that he was especially close to his father, who was a farmer, but also worked as a mechanic. His dad taught him to fix engines and other big equipment and how to ride motorcycles. Andy was a strongly built young man, on the quiet side, and everyone thought he would become a farmer. But, after graduation from Carrabec High School in 1983, he left the family farm to join the Air Force and experience the world. He met his wife, Judy, in 1987, at Fort Leonard Wood, MO, where Andy was an instructor for construction equipment operators, and she was a student at Central Missouri State University. After Judy's graduation from college, they married in 1990 and two years later left Missouri for Mountain Home Air Force Base. Andy and Judy were married for 11 years and have four beautiful children. Their oldest child is Ethan, age 9, followed by Leah age 6, Courtney, age 4, and Mackenzie, age 2. I know they will miss their father very much, and always remember him for the joy and commitment that he had for the church and strong family values that he shared with them all. Everyone will remember his passion for working on vehicles, and his compassion for people. He was the kind of guy that would give you the shirt back off his back, and was always there for you if you needed help, especially if it involved fixing your car. He was truly loved by everyone he touched.

In the Air Force, Master Sergeant Andrews was the Chief of the Pavements Repair Team, operating a multitude of huge vehicles. He felt at home around heavy equipment, knew how to do every job in the shop, and was willing to teach others, just as his father had once taught him. He was always volunteering, especially if a road trip was required. He loved driving those 18-wheelers, but was willing to ride shotgun, in order to show others what he knew best.

Master Sergeant Andrews truly was a great person who was moved to defend a great Nation and bring peace and security to the world. Rest assured, this war on terrorism will be won and the United States will continue to lead the world in protecting freedom. And it will be because of military members like Master Sergeant Andrews who bravely did what they believed in and accomplished what needed to be done. He was a thorough professional who was dedicated to his country and his duties as an Air Force Civil Engineering Non-commissioned Officer.

Master Sergeant Andrews will be buried at Arlington National Cemetery on 22 October 2001. It is about halfway between his and Judy's families, who